



## To Wear The White Cloak

*Sharan Newman*

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## **To Wear The White Cloak** Sharan Newman

Catherine LeVendeur is an independent spirit, fiercely loyal to both her faith and her family. The two sometimes conflict, but even though she has experienced joy and loss, her life remains committed to preserving what-and who-she loves.

Catherine's loyalty is sorely tested, however, when she and her family return to France after a long absence, and discover a Knight Templar has been brutally murdered-and someone is threatening to reveal Catherine's closely held secret about her family's Jewish roots. But Catherine never wavers-neither in her own Christian faith, nor her father's Jewish faith-and ultimately it falls upon her to discover who would kill a soldier of God. . .

And why Catherine's family would be targeted in such a horrendous fashion.

## **To Wear The White Cloak Details**

Date : Published January 20th 2003 by Forge (first published 2000)

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Author : Sharan Newman

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## From Reader Review To Wear The White Cloak for online ebook

### Cynthia says

I have read this entire series (ten books) twice and thoroughly enjoyed them. It isn't easy to find an historical mystery series that is written in English but set in France. If anyone knows of another such series, please let me know. It's always more fun when traveling to have read books set in that locale.

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### Spuddie says

#7 Catherine LeVendeur historical mystery series set in medieval France. Catherine, Edgar and their household return home to Paris after a year's absence in Germany, where they'd gone to assist Catherine's sister Agnes with a problem. Upon returning, they find a dead body in their counting room, a man apparently a Templar Knight, as he is wearing their distinctive white cloak and a brooch. He was obviously murdered, and Catherine and Edgar struggle to find out who he was and why he was left in their home. The Templars don't recognize him and they are now set to blame Catherine and Edgar as rumors of her father Hubert's association with the Jews fly wildly. Hubert, of course, IS a Jew and has gone back to the Jewish community at Troyes, not on pilgrimage as they've told everyone.

I generally enjoy this series, but this one annoyed me on many levels. There were too many sub-plots, too many peripheral characters to keep straight, and too many changes of point of view. Even several of the peripheral characters had their say, with switches often occurring mid-chapter. Just too confusing. I love the main characters in the series, but some of the issues they are dealing with have gone on for multiple books and they are getting a bit tired now. I'm going to finish this series (3 books left, and I have them all) but I'm not as eager to jump on the next one as I was to get to this one.

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### Patricia says

Catherine & Edgar, along with their two children, have just returned to their home in 12th century Paris, only to discover a dead body in their home; presumably one of the many Knights of the Temple who are gathering in Paris to be part of the new crusade. Not knowing the identity of the body or how it got into their home leads to one question after another. Is their family being purposefully targeted? If so, why & by whom?

This is the seventh book in the Catherine LeVendeur series. Newman continues to entertain with her characters, suspense, and her historical insights.

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### John Barclay says

The weakest of the series. Too many coincidences and farcical encounters.

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## **Susan in NC says**

I love this series, although this one dragged a bit for me as I read along waiting for the disparate elements and storylines to become clear. I don't want to give away any spoilers, but in a nutshell Catherine, Edgar and family return from a year in Germany (the previous excellent installment in the series, "Difficult Saint") to their home in Paris to find what appears to be the rotting corpse of a Templar in their counting room (Edgar is taking over Catherine's family trading business). As they attempt to uncover the identity of the body, the reason it was dumped (revenge? an old enemy out to raise questions about the family's secrets? No spoilers!), etc., we also meet two other would-be Templars, a pair of newlyweds on a quest, Paris merchants, and an old friend and enemies of Catherine's family, all of whom may or may not have something to do with the murder victim.

I found it a bit more convoluted than some of Newman's previous stories, but as always, her insight into Paris society, relations between Jews and Christians, the power of the Church, the nobility, the merchant class, and family life are fascinating.

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## **Michele bookloverforever says**

Murder in 12th century France. Catherine, wife of a noble younger son turned merchant and a mother of her own children finds a body upon the return of the family from a trip to Italy. Who did it? She also finds a Torah left in the house her father gave her. What should she do with it. To whom should she give it? She is Christian but her father was a converted Jew who secretly returned to the faith of his father. This is problematic in catholic France during the Inquisition. She does find out who did it.

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## **Dawn says**

I have not found the last few Catherine LeVendeur books as well as I would like. A heavy emphasis on religion, piety and children has more than likely affected my judgement. This story is no exception. I'm getting a little tired of the same issues being a constant backdrop and hold out hope that the next book/s will be better.

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## **LJ says**

White Cloak - G+

Sharan Newman - 7th in series

Catherine LeVendeur is an independent spirit, fiercely loyal to both her faith and her family. The two sometimes conflict, but even though she has experienced joy and loss, her life remains committed to preserving what-and who-she loves. Catherine's loyalty is sorely tested, however, when she and her family return to France after a long absence, and discover a Knight Templar has been brutally murdered-and someone is threatening to reveal Catherine's closely held secret about her family's Jewish roots. But Catherine never wavers-neither in her own Christian faith, nor her father's Jewish faith-and ultimately it falls upon her to discover who would kill a soldier of God. . .And why Catherine's family would be targeted in such a horrendous fashion.

ignorance of the time, power of church

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### **Phil says**

Excellent read. Too bad the next one is sitting at the library and I can't get there because we are having a snowy afternoon.

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### **Sue says**

This is my first book in the Catherine LeVendeur series, and from my experience with this book, it's clear that Sharan Newman is a meticulous historian. But, she is a historian first and a writer second - the story and the writing itself isn't the best you will find. However, her attention to historical accuracy and detail will provide appreciation and delight. One complaint I have is that this book contained several spelling errors. "Heping" instead of "helping" in page 280 (and a few others I haven't recorded). This might be the first time I've read a book with so many blatant spelling errors, which was a bit odd. Overall, it is a solid book if you are in need of a fresh read. But, it is also not a book that will have you gripped until the end.

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### **Julie says**

Eh. I still love these characters and love this setting, but this book was so filled with coincidence that it became silly. Do only three people live in Paris? The entire plot with Jehan felt ridiculous, Catherine felt un-Catherine-like, and there simply wasn't time for the sort of introspection and exploration of the times that I've loved from this series in the past.

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### **Sarah Hearn says**

Tedious. The plot took too long to work itself through, I hadn't read any others in this series and felt somewhat in the dark about who these people were and what their history individually and collectively was. I'm also really bored with the fascination people seem to have with the Templars. Is it the fascination for the idea of "fighting monks", the idea they might have had some secret horde, the way the order was disbanded? What? I find myself sighing "again?" when the Templars rear their collective heads in a story. If you haven't read any others in this mystery series, don't bother picking one up in its middle.

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### **May says**

I was reminded recently by a professor of medieval English literature that the author of this mystery series was "a real historian." In fact, the professor hadn't even realized that the author had written a historical mystery series, being only familiar with the author's academic work.

This is one of my favorite mystery series, and one main reason is that the series highlights a little-covered aspect of medieval life, which is the treatment of Jews in the Middle Ages. The topic is handled well, without judgment and within the context of its time. Catherine LeVendeur, the main character, is delightfully

out of the mainstream, raised in a convent run by Abbess Heloise (of Heloise & Abelard fame) and who has Jewish cousins. (You'll have to read the series to discover how that happened.) She is unorthodox for her time in many ways, but the author does not make the mistake that many do, and Catherine's lack of orthodoxy is limited to what would have been tolerated during the time period. She is constantly praying that her Jewish relatives come to the true faith so as to not condemn their souls to everlasting hell.

In this particular mystery, a dead man is found in the house of Catherine and Edgar (her husband), wearing a white cloak, similar to the Templars' outfits. Was the dead man a Templar? If so, why don't the Templars know who he is? At the same time, a threat from the past comes back and threatens Catherine with exposure about her Jewish relatives.

The mysteries are often secondary to the fascinating look at medieval life from the view of the merchants. The author interweaves historical details beautifully, and you never feel like you're reading out of a history textbook. The characters are all well drawn with fully realized personalities.

If you like historical mystery series, I highly recommend this one. Even if the period isn't necessarily compelling, the unusual angle this mystery series takes on medieval life is well worth the read.

The series is best read in order but is well worth your time!

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### **Kathryn says**

It took a bit to get into. There was something about the writing style that threw me off. This book is called a "Catherine Vendeur mystery", who is one of the characters of the book. We are presented with a dead body within the first few pages of the book and the question of who it is and why he is left in the family's home. Set in 1800's when people had various houses, and servants to open the house for the season, the family shows up to the house and it is untouched. In the only locked room, is a dead Knight of the Temple (AKA Templar Knights) and no sign of burglary. In a drawn out and complex (at times confusing) plot, the mystery is revealed. Once it got further in the plot, things picked up and it was interesting.

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### **Jan says**

Set in the 1100's in France, the historical view of life of the time was perhaps more thought provoking than the crime. The ability of religion to complicate life as well as perceived social status appears to be as horrible then as it is now.

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